

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: Eugene F. Kennedy, 73, retired police detective

*"That [Lewers Road] was all vacant land that was in through there that was being sold and people were going over there and buying it. People in back of us were building and on the side. . . . They [parents] built a three-bedroom house. In those days you had one bath. And then my mother was always looking for more money, rentals, so they put up one rental unit in the back, one-bedroom unit, and rented that out. She left enough room for one if they could afford it, then put a second one up and rented that out. That was the tradition, it seemed."*

Eugene Kennedy was born July 22, 1913 in Honolulu. His father, whose family originally came from New York, was an employee of Honolulu Rapid Transit Company. His mother was a member of the part-Hawaiian Spencer family of Honolulu.

At age three, Kennedy along with his family moved from his grandparents' home on Kalākaua Avenue near John 'Ena Road to Lewers Road near where the Royal Hawaiian Hotel stands today.

In 1926, the family lived in the John 'Ena Estate (sometimes referred to as "Submarine Alley") in Kālia, and in Kapahulu before moving to O'ahu Avenue in Mānoa Valley. Kennedy graduated from St. Louis in 1931, then went to work for Dairymen's until 1934.

In 1934, the family moved back to Waikīkī to 'Ōhūa Avenue. That same year, Kennedy joined the Honolulu Police Department as a beat officer. After resigning from the force in 1954, he worked in insurance and real estate, and served six years on Honolulu's Board of Supervisors.

Kennedy now lives in Hawai'i Kai with his wife, Eva. The couple has six children.

Tape No. 13-76-1-86

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Eugene Kennedy (EK)

April 24, 1986

Hawai'i Kai, O'ahu

BY: Warren Nishimoto (WN) and Michi Kodama-Nishimoto (MK)

WN: This is an interview with Mr. Eugene Kennedy on April 24, 1986 at his home in Hawai'i Kai. The interviewers are Warren Nishimoto and Michiko Kodama-Nishimoto.

Okay well, why don't we start by having you tell us when and where you were born.

EK: Well, as far as I recall I was born July 22, 1913 and that was at 1923 Kalākaua Avenue at the home of my grandparents. That's just the opposite of what is McCully Street.

WN: What do you remember about that area? That was near the [Ray Jerome] Baker house wasn't it?

EK: Baker's was on the left-hand side of their house. He was a photographer. In fact my grandparents and he got along very well over there. We had some pictures--I know Frank Kennedy had some pictures--from Baker that his mother passed down to him. And on the opposite side, the right-hand side, was a McInerny family that lived there and that was the last house. There was--I don't recall the name of the lane right now--that ran behind their house. There was a back entrance and over the garage, Baker's garage, is where he built his studio where he developed all his pictures and everything.

WN: Was that lane Dudoit Lane?

EK: Dudoit Lane, yes.

WN: What type of families lived in that area?

EK: Oh, let's see, directly in back was a Japanese family because I recall we used to kid the oldest boy. We'd always say "Okasan you minai, Frankie guy, hit 'em," or something like that.

(Laughter)

EK: They were a nice family. In their back yard was one of those great big tubs. Oh, it must have been five or six feet wide and they'd fill it with water and they'd heat and that's where they'd take their baths in through there. In back of their property was just brush and swampland.

As far as the other people, I know at the entrance to that lane, that's Hobron? The street that goes down or. . . .

WN: There's 'Ena and Hobron.

EK: John 'Ena, yeah. There was a family that lived over there and that was Perry, Joe Perry. I remember him. Later on he sold and helped bring in Christmas trees every year and set 'em up for this Chinese guy who had the concessions all different places. I ran into him later on when I worked for Dairymen's, but the other side, I can't recall. There were Oriental families, part-Hawaiians and Portuguese in through there.

MK: What did your grandmother's house look like back then?

EK: My grandmother's house? Well, today you'd say it was three-story but it was really a two-story house but it was built so far off the ground that you could walk under there without even having to bend or anything. Then there was two floors above that. There was a large L-shaped veranda on one side in the back. And she loved canaries. She must have had four or five canaries in cages that they'd put out and take in every evening. My grandfather used underneath to store things. He made his beer underneath there and root beer too, but beer--he never waited for it to really go the full course of. . . . He'd sneak down and put a hose in and syphon some out and put the water back inside so no one would notice (chuckles) the change of level.

He was an ex-army man. He was an army man. He was brought down here to handle the construction of the road from Fort Shafter to Schofield Barracks and for getting the army equipment all moved out there. He lived a long life. After he retired and they couldn't take care of him at home, they put him in the city and county home up in. . . . Oh, off of Liliha Street. City---oh what was that, it was a hospital they called it. But city and county indigent patients and whatnot would go up there and they accepted him provided he assigned his retirement [pay] to them and that's where he stayed until he died.

MK: What was your grandfather's name?

EK: Thomas Francis Kennedy.

MK: And where was he originally from?

EK: Back in New York.

MK: And your grandmother?

EK: Grandmother came from New York.

MK: And what was her name?

EK: Oh. . . . Margaret Louise I think it was, Kennedy.

WN: Do you know the circumstances of why they came here to Hawai'i?

EK: Because he was in the service and he was sent out here to handle that . . .

WN: Oh, he was sent just for that. I see.

EK: Yeah. And that was a long job there. Oh, the commissary would deliver bread to your house, two cents a loaf of bread and they'd come by two or three times a week and had pastries and other things. So we got our share of all of that at the same time.

MK: Since your grandfather was in the army, and Fort DeRussy wasn't too far away, did he have much connection or business with Fort DeRussy area?

EK: He and my father, for a short time, worked on a job over there where they built the fourteen-inch guns in Fort DeRussy. Now that's closer to Saratoga Road side and now it's like a [army] museum. That section is a museum in through there and that's one of the jobs they had, but he was one of the key figures over there putting that up.

MK: We found out a bit about the Kennedy side of the family. How about your mother's side?

EK: My mother's side? My mother was a Spencer and let's see, how many brothers did she. . . . Clarence, Alec, Nelson, and she had sisters. Let's see, my aunt, Auntie Nani and there was one more, one more boy. Teresa was one sister. She died shortly. Oh, she wasn't too old, probably four or five in young years she passed away, but that book I had the other day has pictures of all of them, that I've gathered. I've been fortunate through one uncle, Nelson, that he made it a point to get some of these and hold on to them.

MK: And then the Spencer side of the family, where did they live?

EK: On Pākī Avenue. Well first of all, the home was on Lē'ahi Avenue and Pākī in between there. You had the Hollingers, the Spencers and then as you went down you had the Rasmussens and there was somebody else that owned a parcel. Rasmussens' houses they built, like the rental units, is still sitting there. And I don't recall the name of the people where the hibiscus garden [is] on the corner of Monsarrat coming down over there. Roads were real narrow in



through that area. The odd thing is I go to school later on to St. Louis and I got a Richard Hollinger, one from there, my classmate. (Chuckles)

Then the Mossmans are related to my mother. Sterling Mossman, Richard "Dickie" Mossman and Bina Mossman. Bina Mossman's still alive today. She is in that housing area on Kalakaua just below King Street. She lives in that area.

WN: The Spencers, that's the part-Hawaiian side of you?

EK: Yes, it goes back to the Spencers, the two brothers that came here from England with some of the old missionaries, it goes back that far. One was a jeweler and the other was a cabinetmaker and they came and they were here for a while. Then they went to Kaua'i and they were in business over there and then came back here. And let's see how good my memory is. I know they were in good favor with the king at that time because he had offered one of them a piece of land that was described to us as from--equivalent to say if you went from Alakea and King Street and you looked up to the top of the mountain and you came down in the vicinity of Thomas Square and right down to the water. And this portion of land the king offered them free for favors that [they] had done for him.

He had an eye infection and there was a boat going back to England at that time and his brother who was my (great-)grandfather told him, "You better get that recorded." Even the king advised him to have it recorded and he didn't bother.

He said, "No, when I get my eye taken care of and come back, I can take care of that." Well, he never did come back so all we had was the thought and the information (chuckles) passed down that he could have owned this land.

Then they married. My grandfather married and that's where we trace our ancestry, where we got our Hawaiian blood, from Irish, English, Hawaiian.

WN: So how much Hawaiian are you?

EK: Three-eighths Hawaiian.

MK: Maybe now you can tell us something about your mother.

EK: (My great grandfather, Charles Stephen Spencer married Mele Nahakuella. They had two children, John Manukaniakaoneanea and Emma. John M. Spencer married Angeline Titcomb. They had seven children, one being my mother, Lucille Leilehua Spencer.) My mother? Lucille Spencer Kennedy, yeah. She was what, the (third) daughter. While she was growing up, I recall, she went and stayed with a family on Moloka'i, Dudoit family. We've gone to Moloka'i and we've checked the Dudoits. In fact one of them runs a bus service over there and trying to find out if we could put anything

together. They didn't pay too much attention to their heritage over there so you couldn't go back. And then there was the Meyer family that I got to know at St. Louis, and one was a grade behind me and one was several grades ahead of me. They were brought up over there and they couldn't pin anything down and we died as far as going back that way any farther.

She tells us how she met my dad at the Elks Club at a dance there. She had a steady boyfriend, a fairly steady guy that she was dancing with. But my dad was in love with her and he was always there and she figured he was short, a little shorter than her, and he was stout, and she tried to discourage him but he was persistent. Finally she fell in love with him and they got married.

WN: Was your mother related at all to the Dudoit family?

EK: That we're not sure. It appears that they were second cousins or something like that, not too close. Like the Henry Nye family. Well, that's relatives, that family and there were so many others that. . . . One of the officials at the Bank of Hawai'i was married to one of them and in that book, I made some research with the help of my Uncle Nelson, and picked up that kind of information and put it down, passed it on to my kids. So at least they can get some idea of what it was like.

WN: I was wondering if there was any kind of connection between your grandmother's house being right down Kalākaua near Dudoit Lane and her being related to the Dudoits.

MK: That would be Grandmother Kennedy.

EK: Yeah. My father's side were on [Kalākaua]. But my mother lived there after she got married. But Dr. Father [Charles] Kekumano, well, he's a relative of hers (related to Henry Nye's wife). We go to Star of the Sea Church here and Joan Nye sings in the choir and each Sunday she comes up and gives us a big smack. But that's just some of the background. For a long time we couldn't get too much. I don't know, even when we were going to school, "Dickie" Mossman, Sterling Mossman and his sisters. They lived up in the Pālama area and we'd go visit them off and on. Transportation wasn't too convenient but. . . . And then things drifted apart and when I ran for political office and I was up in Kalihi at a rally, who was the M.C. but Bina Mossman and she got up there and I recall her making comments, "This Haole boy over here running for office, he's a relative of mine." Then she explained briefly how we were related and whatnot. But it did a lot of help. I got a lot of votes out of that.

(Laughter)

MK: Then I was wondering about your father, what was he employed as?

EK: Oh, my father went to work for Honolulu Rapid Transit Company and he started on the road working, installing the tracks in through there. Pick and shovel for a while. Then he worked his way up into the office. Later on he became the purchasing agent for them. He handled their books. He ran their cafeteria, he ran their warehouse, all the equipment and everything in the back and he could take six or seven figures across in numbers and come down and he'd start from the bottom and he'd go up this way and write the total down here. It was amazing but it was just something that he was gifted with, I guess.

Kirk was one of the managers over there at HRT, the executive, and McCandless. But Kirk, I know, when I graduated from school he called me in there and he said, "I can get you an appointment to Annapolis."

And my dad said, "No, my son's not going in the navy." Period. That was that.

(Laughter)

EK: It was quite a few other people that worked down there. One fellow by the name of Charley Wright--he became a labor man afterwards. He had a good job down there under my father and he loved to raise chickens, Rhode Island Reds and Plymouth Rocks and stuff, so he got my dad interested.

When we lived on Haunani Street, [later] Mākini Street, we had coops in the back, chickens and he'd come over there and he'd show my dad how to keep them. Yeah, great guy.

MK: Let's see, you were born at 1923 Kalākaua . . .

EK: Kalākaua Avenue, yeah.

MK: How long did you stay there?

EK: Well, from trying to put things together and knowing we were on Lewers Road [from 1916 until] around 1926 in through that area, that meant I was there [Kalākaua Avenue] three or four years [before] when we moved over there [Lewers Road]. We started school from there so we must have been there for quite a while.

WN: How did your parents acquire the land on Lewers Road?

EK: That was all vacant land that was in through there that was being sold and people were going over there and buying it. People in back of us were building and on the side. I know my grandparents helped them finance but nothing cost too much money at that time.

MK: Then on the lot that they acquired, what did they build?

EK: On Lewers Road?

MK: On Lewers Road.

EK: They built a three-bedroom house. In those days you had one bath. And then my mother was always looking for more money, rentals, so they put up one rental unit in the back, one-bedroom unit, and rented that out. She left enough room for one if they could afford it, then put a second one up and rented that out. That was the tradition, it seemed. All except O'ahu Avenue up Mānoa. That's the only one we had no rental units in the back.

MK: Would you remember the names of your parents' tenants at Lewers Road?

EK: Let's see, offhand, no. Nope.

MK: What types of people rented from your parents?

EK: Caucasian people. There was a demand if I remember because even that Trent Town, very seldom you would find a vacancy over there. I know that we had the Lloyds living on one side and he worked for the government. I can't put together any more on his name but like I said, in the back of us, I know Jack Dyer. Jack Dyer is an attorney here. His father and mother lived almost directly behind because there was a gate in the back fence where we'd go to their place. And there was a Reed family over there likewise.

Let's see, Blackshears. He had the same birthday that my sister (Evelyn) had and so being they were well off we'd go over there and celebrate (chuckles) at their house in through there.

We'd peddle coconuts--husk them--and peddle them to make some money to go to Empire Theater. Make lemonade, take it around, sell it, so much a glass, anything just to get some money.

WN: Who did you sell to?

EK: People in these rental units. At that time you had these old Japanese people that used to walk with a pole and they'd have cans on the end of it. You'd sell manapua, pepeiao, chow fun and stuff and they would sell 'em. Then you had another group of Japanese women peddling flowers all the time. Even when we were at 'Ōhūa Avenue they were still peddling, both types and they had a good business built up.

MK: Earlier you mentioned Trent Town, can you tell us about that place?

EK: Trent Town was across from our place on Lewers Road and it was a big area. Let's see, it went almost down to Helumoa Road and then over towards Diamond Head side and . . .

WN: Is that where the Royal Hawaiian is now?



EK: Royal Hawaiian Hotel is on that property now. Next to the Royal Hawaiian you had the YWCA, that women's group. Then you had a stream that came down--no, you had the Outrigger Canoe Club--and then you had the [Āpuakēhau] Stream and then the Moana. You had one, two, three, four piers in the ocean, one down Kālia Road, down that side, was a long one going out. And there was one at the Moana Hotel that went out. And let's see, then there was a prince's house just before Kūhiō Beach and that was all walled in and that had a pier going out and a circle at the end of it. And there was one more. There was one more somewhere in there. I remember four of them.

It's just like in front of Halekūlani Hotel. They had two rafts out in the water. These rafts were made out of concrete, hollow in the middle, but they were concrete and one was taken out so far and the chain with the concrete block underneath anchored there. It had a diving board on it, then probably another 150 or 100 feet out there was another one and it was a good sandy area in through there on the Diamond Head side of Halekūlani. It was Gray's Beach, they called it before. That's where we did most of our swimming, in through that area. I'm trying to remember where that other pier. . . . But I remember four piers.

They had a bowling alley on Kalākaua Avenue, big bowling alley next to Moana. Then they had an open space, the first building was the bowling alley. Then you got over to the Waikīkī Tavern. A lot of that land in through there was owned by Steiner, the Steiner Estate, both sides of Kalākaua Avenue. In fact Steiner had a house at Kalākaua and Ka'iulani over there, two-story house. Next to that they had some property that they built a hotel on it. That's the one, they brought a group down later from the Mainland to demolish it with one explosion and the whole building . . .

WN: Oh, Biltmore?

EK: Yeah, Biltmore Hotel, that's right. Yeah, that one over there. Yeah, trying to remember that gal who used to sing upstairs on the top floor, beautiful voice, still alive (Haunani Kahalewai).

Arnold Capelles, he was a policeman with me. He had special duty up there all the time.

(Laughter)

WN That Trent Town, how big was it?

EK: Oh, Trent Town, let's see, I'd say if you use a landmark, say if you went over almost to the entrance, well, say almost opposite the Waikīkī Theater, and then down to about Helumoa. Helumoa was a dead-end street. It went only so far. Then later on they made an opening when the Royal Hawaiian opened up over there. It was a great big place and it was. . . . You had an entrance from Kalākaua Avenue and there was an entrance way down about, say this is



Helumoa Road here and it would come in and then this boardwalk was built in a great big circle like this, you know, with your boards going across. Then in here they put, well, I don't remember whether it was just opposite this or what. But they had a way to get into the center place where the group could get together and have little get-togethers and whatnot in the center of it. All along out here were all these cottages built just completely around the outside.

MK: Would it be like one- or two-bedroom cottages?

EK: I'm inclined to think they were most one---maybe they had some two bedrooms. What I can remember, they were not too big but we got to know it because that was part of our route to peddle coconuts and lemonade. It's just like next to the Halekulani Hotel. There was a way to the beach, must have been about fifteen feet wide or so. And then there were two-story buildings, all rental units there. Then you went over to the YWCA where it went in before you got to Fort DeRussy. I can't remember the name of those cottages on Kalia Road.

The Kimball family naturally, the younger Kimball [i.e., Richard "Kingie" Kimball] was with us quite a bit, like Malcolm Love and his brother down the street. And Helumoa to Kalia Road and Beach Walk through Lewers Road, there was nothing on it. It was just coconut trees around the edge and that's where we played baseball or football or whatever you wanted over there. I don't recall who owned it.

MK: Going back to Trent Town, I was wondering what sorts of people lived in Trent Town when you were peddling your coconuts . . .

EK: Most of them were Caucasian. Most Caucasian people. I don't recall seeing any local people in there, but that's the best I can remember of that.

WN: Were they mostly Caucasians that lived here, or were there also tourists living in that area?

EK: Some tourists, but most of them were people that were living here, at least that stayed there, I guess, until they could find something more permanent or get a place they could buy. And the opposite [i.e., ma uka] side of Kalakaua Avenue at that time was just swampland all the way down to where, let's see, Moana Hotel. Then they had where the employees used to live over there, cottages. They had an area there filled in through that section.

WN: I know that you were living there right at the time when the Ala Wai Canal was being built.

EK: Yeah.

WN: Do you remember what the differences were from before the time the canal was built as compared to after it was built?

EK: Now what do you mean by the differences?

WN: I mean did the place look different after it was built and how different did it look?

EK: Well, actually it was filled from the coral. Dillingham actually got the contract to build that [canal] and he started from the Ala Wai coming in with the dredge and he had a problem, oh, up to Kalākaua or a little farther, with where to store the stuff. So he took and he worked a deal with the [owners of] the land at Atkinson Drive and Ala Moana where Ala Moana Shopping Center is, a lot of that, not all of it. But most of the big portion of that was owned by them and it was swamp.

We'd go over there and watch because there was a lot of--water had to drain out, out to the sea and it was all mucky stuff that was in it. The canal went all the way in and it [i.e., the swampland] was all filled. Then they decided to build fairgrounds where Ala Wai Golf Course is now. In fact it was bigger. They had racetracks in there and they had these--like Maui still has in their fairgrounds--a couple of those big buildings where they'd have produce buildings and others all the way through.

At the head of 'Ōhūa Avenue is where they built a bridge over the canal. The canal went probably past Paoakalani a little ways because a Silva family lived on the slopes of the canal across there and he was the one of the best guys to repair outboard motors and motorboat engines, you know, these Crisscraft. Their son played with us all the time and later on my brother Robert bought a Crisscraft. That's where he would always take it and leave it in front of their place, and they'd take care of it and they'd use it likewise.

But that fairgrounds, that was something that really was fabulous. Now a golf course. Well, they lost part of it to the library and some of the others.

MK: What were territorial fairs like back then?

EK: What were they like? They had rides in there, not too much, like merry-go-rounds, very few of those. But you had your horse racing and all other kinds of events, but it was more produce and appliances and stuff like that that was in there. But it was a big area, a lot of those buildings that were up, keep you going all day long, just to get around.

WN: So the area across the street--across Kalākaua from Lewers Road--you said was swampland?

EK: Swampland, yeah. And when they dredged, filled all of that. Where Kapi'olani Boulevard is in through there, that was all swampland. McCully section, that was all swampland. Practically all of that area came in for fill. When you get around Sheridan Street in through that on the ma uka side, it was rice fields and oh, Ruddy Tongg and the group built a restaurant over the area over there, rice fields, and it was on piles. I got pictures of us over there at one time. I don't know really where it is, but I know we went over there for a party. Later on when I was on the police force, and it was still there before it folded up.

WN: Was that near McCully and Kalākaua?

EK: This would be about where KGMB [television] station [is today], this eating place underneath, right across the street, right about there.

WN: By Victoria Station?

EK: Yeah. Right, yeah. In that area across the street. I remember people like George Farr. And then after the place was filled on McCully, Kapi'olani Boulevard was no curbs, nothing, just a small paved road. They were selling land on the Kaimukī side of Kalākaua Avenue. They bought land--he, Andy Freitas and a group--they bought land. What's his name, the guy from Smile Cafe?

MK: Mr. [Sam] Uyehara?

EK: Yeah. He bought land too in there, something like twenty-five cents a square foot or something like that on easy terms. And you talk about Uyehara, his youngest brother runs the service station down here by Foodland market in the shopping area, that Chevron Station. That's his youngest brother. I didn't remember him and one day we were in there getting gas and whatnot and then I walked into the office and he called me by name and he said, "You don't remember me?"

I said, "No."

He said, "Uyehara ring a bell with you?"

I said, "There's plenty Uyeharas."

He said, "Smile Cafe?"

I said, "Yeah, now it rings. Sam was your older brother who ran the place."

So we got in conversation there for a long time about it and I said, "You know, he's one of the guys that held onto his land on Kapi'olani Boulevard the longest. I thought it was valuable and he would peddle it and retire."

And he said, "No, he held onto it until he really got sick." And he had this one house on this big piece of land and some guy came by and offered them couple hundred thousand dollars for the piece of land, so he sold it.

MK: Going back to the Waikiki area, that Lewers area, were there any stores or other businesses in that area, Lewers, Kalakaua?

EK: No, going back on the left-hand side, going back towards the McCully section, all the way to John 'Ena, that's the first store, that way. Going the other way, well, all the way down almost to the old Waikiki Tavern, that Steiner property, there was one or two before you got to Ibaraki's, Aoki's and whatnot down below there.

I remember one other murder case happened just before I got on the police force. I don't remember whether we were still living on Lewers Road or not but it happened--I think we were still there. It was a Japanese fellow (Fukunaga) who went to Punahou and took this student (Jamieson) out. Said your parents want to see you and he brought 'em and he took 'em up into this section opposite Trent Town, I'd say, and murdered him over there and then he went down and he volunteered and he joined the group that was looking for the killer.

WN: Myles Fukunaga?

EK: Yeah. His sister married Alec Ching and she used to be a travel agent for International Travel. They were at about Fort and Merchant Street. And she's still alive. She lives in Kane'ohe. I can't remember the name of that kid that was murdered over there now, but Jamieson?

MK: Uh huh, it was [Gill] Jamieson.

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

EK: My dad used to take us down to Wall-Nichols on King Street, down below you bought all your office supplies and everything. The second and third floor were toys, loaded with toys, and he had a good friend, Henry--can't remember his last name. He used to be the manager over there. So we were allowed to walk around and pick one gift out. (Chuckles) No touch kine unless Henry was there. We'd look forward to that, getting that one gift. Your choice.

MK: That's a nice Christmas memory.

WN: I know you said you played sports or played football with some of the boys in the area. What else did you do to have a good time in that area growing up?



EK: Well, if you talk around about Lewers Road whatnot, well, that was when we were still quite young--swimming. Most of the time was peddling to get some money to go to the Empire Theater because it was ten cents to get in and you just needed your carfare, that's all, to go down and a little money to spend. Malcolm Love and all that group and. . . .

MK: Who was in that group you had? "Kingie" Kimball, Malcolm Love. . . .

EK: Jack Dyer. He's a gawky, tall guy attorney and he was the judge here for a while if I recall. The Reed boys, Jim Reed and I don't recall the other guy's name. And Blackshear.

MK: How about the Petersons? Did they ever come by and play with you guys?

EK: Which Petersons?

MK: King Peterson.

EK: Oh, King Peterson and them lived opposite what was Waikīkī Tavern. That's in back of where the Biltmore was before, in back of there is where the Petersons lived. They had one sister, Moana, that I remember. And you talk about King Peterson. For some ungodly reason my grandson is married--let's see, yeah, his wife's sister is married to King Peterson's son. They just had a baby this past week. (Chuckles). Yeah. Yeah. Moana Peterson.

MK: I was also told that there were some Hollinger boys in the Waikīkī area.

EK: The older one [lived] on 'Āinakea. 'Āinakea is the first road after you pass. . . . You're coming from Kapahulu, coming down the first road is 'Āinakea. About the second or third house down there was one Hollinger. What was his name? Bill? He lived on the beach practically and was always down around the Moana Hotel. That gang used to take people out to surf, teach 'em how to surf and whatnot. And there was a Kahanamoku who lived opposite us on 'Ōhūa Avenue.

What was the guy who was involved in golf at Ala Wai, ran the tournaments and everything over there for a long time? He lived on 'Ōhūa, about three houses down the street from us. He died about four or five years ago. ["Babe" Carter.]

MK: Actually when you were a young boy you were playing with "Kingie" Kimball, Malcolm Love, and you had your ball team. . . .

EK: And there was another King that lived down there. His last name was King and he lived right near Malcolm Love's place in that area.



MK: Is that Jack King?

EK: Could be. Could be. That seems---he wasn't too big but he was one of the gang in through there. There was someone on Saratoga Road too that used to play with us all the time and we'd always do well. (Chuckles)

WN: How were your football games?

EK: Well, rough and tumble.

(Laughter)

EK: Because all you had was a football, no shoulder pads or anything else, no shoes. But it was good fun.

MK: Right near you, you had the Halekūlani and not too far away from you, you had the Moana Hotel, how much contact did you as a little boy have with tourists?

EK: Not too much, except those that may have been spending some time and renting one of these places around Lewers Road, Saratoga or in through there. We'd get over to that stream by the Outrigger and whatnot that went through. It was a job keeping it open by the beach because it always plugged. But there were kiawe trees on the banks that would be partially toppled over that you could get out on. And we'd get a piece of bamboo and string and put a pin on the end of it and bend it, put your bait. You get shrimp, little 'ōpae you'd catch right in the stream. And then we'd go out there and catch a āholehole.

WN: We heard a lot of stories about when there was a heavy rain in Waikīkī. Do you remember what you people did when there was a big rain and the streams were flooded?

EK: Well, when we were on Lewers Road we had no stream problem or drainage there because even after they filled that swamp area, that swamp area would run off on this other stream down below. It probably overflowed on the road too at times. I know Kalākaua Avenue especially going towards my grandmother's place--most of the way there was no sidewalks or anything. It was just dirt. Then later they put curbs in. But I remember streetcar days and the trolley buses--when they put those on where they could pull all the way over to the curb and get back into. . . .

MK: While you were living at Lewers Road did you witness the construction of the Royal Hawaiian Hotel?

EK: While we were living there? The first portion of the first building, the original building, it was at that time, yes. It wasn't too big of a building, the old pink building.

WN: So did they have to tear down Trent Town to build that?

EK: Yeah. Oh, when they first started Royal Hawaiian, Trent Town was still there and then later after the Royal was opened up and whatnot, for some reason, someone came in I guess--bought the land, started to develop it. There was more demand for that stuff in through there because even the property on Lewers Road and Beach Walk was all being converted into--you'd have a couple extra rooms or apartment buildings.

MK: While you were living there at Lewers Road did you notice any big changes between 1916 and 1926 about the time that you left Lewers Road?

EK: The time we left? Yeah, because that's when the [Bishop] Bank bought out the building next to us on the corner [of Kalakaua Avenue and Lewers Road] and others were buying up property in through there, and then the bank eventually got more property including ours. They started going into two-story buildings but you didn't see any three-story buildings that I recall. First one anything like that I think was the [Royal Hawaiian] Hotel itself having anything higher than that.

Getting back to my grandmother's, like I was telling you the other day, Jack Burns' mother used to live with my grandmother there. She worked at the post office. She had the corner concession of the post office selling stamps and she lived with my grandmother for a long time. Then there were other people that my grandmother took in. I remember the Jelfs. Mr. and Mrs. Jelf. They came down and they---somebody had known my grandparents back in New York and they came over to see 'em. Next thing you know they were moving in and staying there.

The other thing I just remembered is while we were staying with my grandmother when I was young, we were on the second floor. The windows were built much different then. They were quite lower to the floor. I climbed up and I was sitting on the ledge where the steps come up and I leaned back and I fell out--screen went and everything--fell out. My mother---oh, she screamed. She was telling us later about us falling out. I remember my grandmother telling about how I fell out of there and didn't get hurt too bad (chuckles). Those were the days.

WN: So Bishop Bank bought out your area from your mother, your parents, and so from there where did you go? Did you go to Submarine Alley?

EK: We went, let's see. I made some notes on this over here. Yeah, from Lewers Road my grandparents--this what I seem to recall more now--and my parents bought this property on Haunani or which is [now] Makini Street over there, and the houses were still under construction. There was a new development going on so we had sold Lewers Road and we had to move. My grandparents had no room so we went down Submarine Alley. We stayed there for one month and it leaked so badly my dad wouldn't stay there any longer. That's when we went back next to my aunt on Paki Avenue.

Next we were where the Redmans lived and they had these four or five rental units all the way up to Le'ahi. One was vacant so they rented us that for a couple months while the house was under construction. Then we moved into that house after that.

WN: Where exactly was Submarine Alley?

EK: Well, Submarine Alley is--you had all these [roads], they were probably twelve, thirteen feet wide, something like that. Just coral filled or something for the road. Not paved or anything and there was one, two, three [lanes] because they made a loop this way and another loop and they had places built. Oh, they were ramshackle places that were built in there, and most service [i.e., military] people were staying in there. That would be where---Niumalu Hotel is on part of that. Next after Submarine Alley was a Hawaiian village and I'm trying to think of the guy who ran it. He had a bar on Hotel Street during the war and he bought that place over there and turned it into a nightclub and the [Kaiser, later Hilton] Hawaiian Village eventually bought it out. But there was a Spencer, John Spencer, who was a good musician, no relative, that ran that place over there. But these three streets--they had names. I can't remember any of 'em.

WN: Was it Nano Way or Luhi Way? Does that ring a bell?

EK: Could be. It poured so much through the roof that we couldn't stay there. (Chuckles)

MK: I'm kind of unfamiliar with that term, Submarine Alley, and I was wondering why was it called Submarine Alley?

EK: Because most of them were navy people and people that were on submarines who lived down there, and the type of people and the goings on that were going on down there. It was a risqué area I'd say. I wouldn't say prostitutes or anything, but loose.

(Laughter)

EK: It appeared that they would take pieces of lumber and just build it up. Put your roof on, put tar paper over the top--no windows, a screen, that's all. As long as they got the money, that's the thing.

WN: So that was---being service people it was mostly Caucasian living there?

EK: Yeah.

MK: And while you were there for about one month or so, were you able to make friends with the kids around there?

EK: Yeah. There were plenty kids as far as that's concerned and they were easy to make friends with.

MK: And what did you folks do around there for play?

EK: There was a big area between the loops at the end of the road and the oceanfront over here, grassed-in area that you'd go down there and play or you'd go out on the pier and go swimming way out to the end.

WN: We've heard about that swimming area. Was it at the end of the pier?

EK: Yeah. That pier started and it went way out into--oh, I'd say going out at least 2[00] or 300 feet going out this way and then it took a slight angle and it went out this way. . . . And at the end out there was a great big nice clear area, all sand bottom, and it was well worth the walk going out there and being able to swim. And there was a ladder on the side, you'd climb back up where you could get up. And the people who managed this area in through here seemed to manage the use of that pier and the upkeep of everything of it over there.

WN: What was at the end of the pier--was there a little house at the end of it or anything there?

EK: It was broadened. It was quite wide. One portion of it had a roof over it, that's all. But you were up at least six, eight feet from the water.

WN: Was there a light at the end of the pier?

EK: No.

MK: With the Niumalu Hotel being in that vicinity, were the tourists also using that pier to go out for swims?

EK: Anybody could use it. Yeah. Some would drive down these streets that knew about it and would park over here and go out. Nobody stopped them but you'd go out there anytime. I'd say most of the time during the day and you'd find anywhere from six to twenty-five people out there at least.

WN: What was the Niumalu Hotel like? What do you remember about that?

EK: Don't remember too much about it at all, (chuckles) other than it being there.

WN: Physically what was it like?

EK: A great big home. The front had like the restaurant and the office and whatnot, and then these rooms were behind.

WN: Were there cottages?

EK: Duplexes if I remember.

WN: So from there you moved on to near Pākī Avenue.

EK: Yeah. That's correct.

MK: And then to Haunani (Street) where you stayed for about four years or so?

EK: Yeah. And you're gonna find that Frank Kennedy moved in after us. I didn't remember that at all until yesterday when we were out. We went to lunch. It was his wife's birthday and so we were telling him about you folks may contact them, giving them a little idea what it was all about. That's when he started bringing up some of those things. And talk about Lemon Road, Marge [Kennedy] said, "I used to live on Lemon Road right over there." And started mentioning some of the people she remembered. The odd thing is we ran into her sister at their house up in. . . . What the heck is the next valley? Niu? No.

WN: Kuli'ou'ou.

EK: Kuli'ou'ou. Yeah.

MK: I think we have to get in contact with them since . . .

EK: Yeah. They're interesting. And I know even my brother Robert, talking to him. First he wasn't receptive to it and then he said, "Wait a minute, if it shook up your mind that much having these people come over there and brought back the memory, damn, then it's gotta do it for me." And he said, "If they call me, I'm gonna welcome them."

(Laughter)

MK: Great.

WN: You said earlier that you went to St. Augustine's. What was it like over there?

EK: The church? Well, St. Augustine's was nothing more than a wooden building, church building, all lattice work sidings. Later the priest had a smaller cottage built--a house in the back where he stayed. But you'd come in from Kalākaua Avenue and you'd go out on 'Ōhua Avenue. It had a great big tree, banyan tree that was in front of the church and that's the one he used to hang the screen once a week, pull out silent movies, turn it on. It was free--and just invite people over there. And then the people on the corner, 'Ōhua and Kalākaua that owned that--Caucasian people--I'm trying to remember their name. Something like---it's close to McInernys but that isn't it.

Robert may remember it, because later he also worked for the Catholic church handling their real estate for them because they had so damn much--Joe O'Donnell hired him--and they had so damn



much real estate they didn't know whether it was good or bad. People would die and leave their property to them, didn't know where it was. But those people on the corner--they wanted to get out and they asked the Catholic church to buy their property because it would be a good addition. And the bishop turned it down, wouldn't buy it. So in their deed it has the stipulation, and it's still in there. That property cannot be sold to the Catholic church--one stipulation. The people who owned it lived at Ala Wai and 'Ōhūa, the corner house up there.

"Babe" Carter was the guy I was trying to think of that handled all the golf tournaments there at the Ala Wai for years and he lived across the street about three houses down from us. And then one of the Kahanamokus, Sam, lived across the street right next to him.

MK: Going back to St. Augustine's, how about Father Valentin [H. Franckx]? We've heard that name a couple of times.

EK: He was the first one we knew and we met from that area and he was a pastor. He was the only one in that church there for a while. There weren't too many people at that time in that area and then as more and more buildings came up, they tried to add on and they couldn't do too much to it. Oh, they opened a school across the street where that hotel is now, the one on the corner, goes up on 'Ōhūa, Japanese[-owned] hotel, big hotel. So that's when Father Valentin was approached just before he died on leasing out or selling the school. They had one, two, three, either four or six buildings, classrooms across the street and they later converted that after the hotel took it over, and they leased it. They made it a parking area and the church bought the property on Paoakalani in a big stretch over there and built a school over there.

That's when they bought our place, built a place for the nuns to stay. But Father Valentin, he was a real terrific guy you'd say. Tall. I don't know what nationality he was. He was Caucasian. I know that. He was foreign. He was from Europe and all in through there. Jimmy Hoke, his father, used to work at Liberty House. He was one of the ushers. Jack Petrous, he was one of the ushers at one time. Jack Petrous had service stations, one in McCully and Ala Wai, one at Kapahulu and Kalākaua, one Downtown at Bishop and Beretania Street. Those three I remember that he had.

Getting back to Father Valentin, you couldn't want a better pastor, as far as getting along with people. And we had a Father Kennedy there for a while and then had quite a few others. The last one that I was very close to was Father Jacobs and he was there at the time when a lot of the final sales were made on the property and the working of. . . . The church bought property in back of it going up to the next street too. Bought that for additional parking and that was Father Jacobs' time that he went through those. He's still alive. He's at 710 Waialae, retired over there.

WN: After Haunani Street you lived in Mānoa for a while.

EK: Yeah, 2801 O'ahu Avenue. We sold that place to Dr. Mills. I think Dr. Mills still owns it, but we've gone by that house. It still looks the same, the same veranda in the front, two-car garage, brings back a lot of memories. Across the street was the Cooke's mansion and they owned it from O'ahu Avenue all the way up to Mānoa Road up above. And there was a road right across from our place, Hillside Drive, really steep on the second block. Was so steep, concrete road with slits in it. Then right opposite they had a great big house that was on the upper side. And right across from ours they had cow pastures, cows grazed there. And the sidewalk area was about twelve feet wide, grass only. We'd play football over there.

MK: As you look back on the time that you were in Mānoa and the time that you were in Waīkiki, how did the two neighborhoods compare?

EK: Very different. Very different. I go down Lex Brodie's and buy my tires there because Lex Brodie was one of the kids in the area. His mother was a schoolteacher at--oh, what was the name of that school that's opposite Thomas Square?

MK: Linekona?

EK: Yeah, but it had a different name then. Lincoln School. Years ago. And his father worked for HSPA [Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association]. And then we had Dr. Jeffrey's son and then we had the Magoon boys, the ones from Hawaiian Airlines. Let's see, Harry Fields' family lived next door to us and across, a couple houses down, is where the Magoons lived. There were two boys, one was very involved with Hawaiian Airlines in through that area, yeah. Dr. Jeffrey's son had this motorcycle. We used to ride five on one motorcycle and I don't know how all of us never went to jail sometimes when you look back (chuckles), some of the stunts we were pulling.

We'd get on that bike. One would be on the front fender facing him, one would be on the seat with him, and then two more on the back fender. The last guy holds the bicycle siren. When you'd go, he cuts the engine and you pull up by a car and the last guy shoves that siren on the tire and [siren sound]. You know these cars would pull over suddenly.

Louis Camacho was one that was up there. I remember him because when I became a policeman he's the first guy I ran into and he remembered me.

(Laughter)

EK: Yeah, we'd go and grease the car track going down Punahou hill and the motorman would be up in front pumping sand--they had sand on those streetcars to grip it and most of the time they had no

problem stopping it. But this one time it got down to Wilder Avenue. He couldn't slow it down enough. It went off the track and into the--they have a little park over there, small park, that's where the streetcar wound up.

My father found out about it. He worked for Rapid Transit. (Chuckles) You know what I was in--I was in for trouble, grounded for a hell of a long time.

(Laughter)

WN: What area did you like better, Waikīkī or Mānoa?

EK: Frankly, overall, I think I liked Waikīkī more. You had all types of people, not just one, and even when we were staying on Haunani or Mākini Street up there we'd walk to the beach. We'd always come down and cut across through Waikīkī School and opposite Pacheco's house. I don't know whether you had Pachecos on that list but they lived on the corner lot, one block above Lemon, I think. Right across from there was an open area and it was all coral filled and we'd cleared this and put up a volleyball court, nets and everything. That's where we spent most of the time--sweat it out.

Then you'd go down to Kūhiō Beach, swim, surf or whatever you want or come back, get another workout. But the type of people that we met over there. And then the odd thing is that after I became a policeman and we were involved in getting out in neighborhoods and helping groups that we knew, Alan Taylor, Albert Stevenson and I joined the barefoot 135-pound [football] league the city ran at that time. And we went out to Waikīkī into the Kapahulu area and down below by that Paoakalani area and this is where we picked up most of the kids that played for our team. So we'd take 'em up on the playground between Pākī and Le'ahi--Pākī Playground. That's where we'd practice every afternoon, five days a week and then we'd haul 'em off to Makiki field, play the Pāwa'a team and others. Mervin Richards was one of those in that area too.

Some couldn't make the weight so we'd put 'em into my station wagon--my four-door Ford--close all the windows, park it in the sun by Makiki . . .

(Laughter)

EK: . . . put army blankets over to sweat it out, see. You sweat it out, you go check the scale. If they make the weight, fine. Then we look for someplace where we can get something to eat for him.

(Laughter)

EK: Oh, we had a grand time with that team.

WN: What was the name of your team?

EK: Police G-man.

WN: Police G-man?

EK: Yeah.

MK: Mervin Richards mentioned it, yeah.

EK: Yeah. Mervin's mother used to have parties over their house. They had a big veranda and whatnot. She used to teach hula. I haven't seen them for quite a while.

WN: So around the time you started working for the police department your family moved over to 'Ōhūa Street to live?

EK: Yeah. We were in 'Ōhūa, 277 'Ōhūa Avenue when I was on the police force.

MK: Why is it that your family moved from Mānoa to 'Ōhūa?

EK: Frankly, I don't know, to be honest with you. Unless between my mother and father they figured, well, for church purposes, for school purposes, we weren't in the most convenient spot. Because we'd have to catch a streetcar--you ride down to Pāwā'a junction which was the terminal. Then you'd have to catch another streetcar and go down to St. Louis, down to River Street. The other was a lot simpler, and I think being most of the family lived in Kapahulu and Waikīkī that they went back there.

MK: And where exactly was your family property on 'Ōhūa?

EK: Oh, let's see. It's between 'Ōhūa and Paoakalani. It was about the fourth or fifth house down from Ala Wai Boulevard. If you go by there today there's a wall in front of it, a big wall that the nuns had built when that was their living quarters in there. And then you can see this tall building, two story that they actually lived in and it says "277," big letters outside of it.

MK: And that lot was acquired in fee?

EK: In fee. Yeah.

MK: What was built on that lot?

EK: That we built? My parents built a two-bedroom house and they built a garage, two-car garage, for my dad's workshop and my mother converted it to a rental unit later. Then he had to look for another spot. Then they later built two rental units over the garage and then they were able to buy half of the next lot going down 'Ōhūa. They built two duplexes and they rented those out over there. My mother was going every day, checked and cleaned up the apartments and whatnot. She sure loved rental units. (Chuckles)



MK: What types of people rented from you?

EK: She hand-picked them practically. Only one was a little odd that she okayed and that was because my brother Robert said, "Oh, I know 'em." My brother Robert was on the vice squad at that time and this guy was a gambler and you could hear 'em over there practicing how they'd hit the cup and roll dice on the floor.

(Laughter)

EK: Oh, I can't remember his name. Alan Taylor who was a detective on the police force--he lived in one of them for quite a while and they had several single girls that were living there. One couple. We had two bedrooms upstairs in the main house and three bedrooms downstairs.

MK: On 'Ōhūa where you lived, who were your neighbors?

EK: Well, on one side there was a vacant lot until we bought half of it. That other vacant half still stayed there as long as we lived there because the people who owned the rest owned it almost all the way down to Kūhiō. There was a church, Pentecostal church in there too. But going up, I know the guy that. . . . Watson was his last name, his brother or cousin was a classmate of mine at St. Louis. He died and she was a nurse and later she married a policeman. The policeman is now a prosecutor on Maui I think. Yeah. Correa? No. Something like that. Then going up the street there were--I don't recall the names of those people there--friendly people.

MK: Then if you went across the way from 'Ōhūa going towards Paoakalani what sorts of people lived in that area?

EK: 'Ōhūa, in the back?

MK: If you went from 'Ōhūa and you were going towards Diamond Head towards Paoakalani area.

EK: Catholic church bought all that Lili'uokalani land from the school. That went down almost to Kaneali'i Road right opposite that intersection. And then across from that was where that hotel is now. That's where my dad picked up those Lili'uokalani Trust leases, five leases, and they let my mother name the streets. She named one of them Wainani and the other Pualani. Then my dad assigned one lease to me and each one of us, the five kids and no--four kids. We didn't have the whole gang at that time. They kept two so they had five--four of us had it.

Then we got Kurata. He was a contractor that had built our Mānoa house. He had a place on Sheridan Street, Sheridan Builders. I think he's still alive. He was the one who'd draw the house. We had a two-bedroom house for us to live in and the second one--we put a one-bedroom on ours. My wife and I lived in the first one and that's where our oldest son was born over there. But the odd



thing--in the last one where my mother lived in, 2566 Pualani Way, that finally was bought by somebody and they had social service people living in it, and a Samoan family was in there.

We were back visiting her. Outside of San Diego. What do they call that area where she was living there [with] my sister? One day my wife and I--we made a mistake--"What do you remember about old times in Waikiki?" We sat there and she kept talking for about three hours. Three hours! We said, "We should have brought a tape recorder with us." Because she was telling us things we never knew prior to that--goings on and whatnot.

She said, "I remember something. Will you do me a favor? In that house at 2566 Pualani Way, will you go into there and go up into the attic? I left my best silverware I had up in the attic," a whole set of silverware. And she said, "You can have it if you find it."

My wife Eve and I went down there and we saw the type of people that were living in there and we knew damn well that we weren't going to get in there and get up into the attic too easily. And if there was something there, we weren't gonna be able to take it out of there, so we tried to find out who the owners were--if we could contact them. We couldn't, so we just told her no. We couldn't do anything.

END OF INTERVIEW

Tape No. 13-81-2-86

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Eugene Kennedy (EK)

May 1, 1986

Hawai'i Kai, O'ahu

BY: Warren Nishimoto (WN) and Michi Kodama-Nishimoto (MK)

WN: This is an interview with Mr. Eugene Kennedy on May 1, 1986 at his home in Hawai'i Kai. The interviewers are Warren Nishimoto and Michi Kodama-Nishimoto.

MK: Okay. First of all Mr. Kennedy, where on 'Ōhūa Street did you live?

EK: Two-seven-seven 'Ōhūa Avenue. That's about the fourth house coming down from Ala Wai Boulevard on the Diamond Head side of the street.

MK: And who were your immediate neighbors right and left?

EK: Well, on the lower side going towards the water, that would be my left side going down, there was a half of a vacant lot--had kiawe trees in it. I don't recall the person who owned those houses there but he had about three or four houses going down--used them for rental units. Going up above next door to us, the guy was a classmate of mine at St. Louis. He and his wife were living there and he died. And she was a nurse, if I recall. I can't recall their names but then she married a policeman. Joe Cardoza, if my memory's good. I think he's a prosecutor on Maui right now--they lived there and they sold that house later. They moved up going in towards the Punchbowl Memorial Park about the third house as you go in up on the mountain side. They were living there.

Across the street I know we had one of the Kahanamokus living over there and the guy that ran the golf tournaments for Ala Wai Golf Course . . .

WN: "Babe" Carter.

EK: "Babe" Carter. Yeah. He lived there. There was an old Chinese woman. In fact she's still living there because I ran into her about two months ago at Ala Moana Shopping Center and she stopped me and asked if I was one of the Kennedy boys, and then she brought back memories about the old times. She said, "I'm still there --gonna stay there till I die."

Some of the other names I don't quite recall. In back of our house was all vacant at that time. That was part of the Lili'uokalani Estate and then they sold it to the Catholic church--St. Augustine's--they put a school back there. Then when the nuns all started getting hard to find they gave up the school and the city took it over. In fact at 277 'Ōhūa like I was telling you, right now it's facilities for the aged people over there where the nuns used to stay. They broke down our house and everything and put up a regular convent for the nuns over there, a great big "277," a high wall in front.

WN: Did you people own the land and the house and lot?

EK: Yes. That's the one they [EK's parents] built--a-story-and-a-half they called it at that time--and then they took our garage in the back, my dad's workshop, two rental units above. Then they bought that half lot and they put two more duplexes and made four more rental units over there.

MK: In that vicinity was it unusual or usual to have rental units on your property?

EK: Usual. Yes. Very usual. Almost everyone in there was taking advantage of that.

MK: And then the tenants that stayed in people's rental units, were they transients or long-timers?

EK: Ours were all long-timers. As soon as they hear about a rental unit or see something going up looking like it, they'd inquire whether it was going to be available and whatnot--had no problem renting it as far as I remember.

MK: Living in that neighborhood, who were your closest associates or your family associates at that time?

EK: Well as far as my mother's concerned it was the people close by in that area. As far as we were concerned it was that Paoakalani group where we knew most of that gang, Joys, Pachecos, "Steppy" DeRego--he's still alive. He has game leg. He can play a ukulele. He puts it behind his back or behind his neck or anywhere and he'd play. He's one of the best players I've ever known. He was always in demand for Hawaiian groups, groups playing Hawaiian music and he'd teach anybody down there how to play. All you'd do is get a ukulele and bring it down.

WN: How did he get that nickname?

EK: Because of that one short leg. We called him, "Steppy." His wife is a sister of my youngest brother, Harold Kennedy--Weir family, and their brother used to work for Kodak of Hawai'i.

MK: That Paoakalani gang that you referred to, what kind of things did you folks do together?

EK: Well, main thing is right opposite the Pachecos' house is where the volleyball area was that they'd cleared part of this lot--put it up and we really had a workout. Every day you'd find somebody over there. If you wanted to find a ball just go over to the Pachecos on the porch. The ball was always there so you could always get involved. The Bishaws lived below and so many others in through there.

Other than that you'd either go surfing, canoeing or swimming and if you weren't there you could go over to the school and in the after school hours play baseball, football or whatever you want.

MK: And as for your mother's group, what did the ladies of that area do together?

EK: Well, a lot of them had like sewing groups and they'd get together--meet at one house today and another house next time or so--just for company. My mother owned all these rental units. She would go in every day and make up the beds, clean the place and whatnot. That was one of the rental conditions that she made, that she'd go in there. But if she had more room she'd put more rental units there. I know my dad had a workshop. She, one day, moved his stuff out and told him, "We're converting this into a rental unit."

(Laughter)

EK: No matter where we moved, if he had a workshop and if she thought she could make money out of converting it, she'd convert it into a rental unit. She was one of those high-strung persons that always wanted to be doing something.

WN: Was your dad working all this time?

EK: Yes. He worked for Honolulu Rapid Transit Company.

WN: So he was still working?

EK: Yeah. He was working up until he died.

WN: You said your mother cleaned the rooms and made the beds in the rental units every day?

EK: Every day.

WN: Was that common in those days?

EK: Yeah.

WN: Good service.

(Laughter)

MK: Last time when we were here, you mentioned baseball activities in that area. At the time that you're talking about now, was there any sort of organized league?

EK: No. It was just---you come over there and join one side or the other, two come, one on each team.

MK: Was the 'Ōhūa Street area more of a little bit more high-class area, where you had more White families?

EK: Yes. That's correct. White, part-Hawaiians and whatnot in through there. And there were a lot of them that owned--oh, I'm trying to think of Norman Olds' aunt that lived there. They had bought property evidently while it was really cheap. They had their house and later on you could see where they added on--had about half a dozen houses. The other five were all rental units. And even the people on the corner of 'Ōhūa and Ala Wai had a two-story house and I remember upstairs was converted into two rental units and later on downstairs--one portion of it was converted into a rental unit and they stayed in the other portion. I should remember that family because they're the ones that owned the land at 'Ōhūa and Kalākaua where there was a service station opposite Aoki Store.

MK: Sano Service Station?

EK: Gee, I wouldn't. . . . Then right in like a L shape on their boundary they had stores in there. There was one dry-cleaning place in there and there was. . . . Oh, I don't recall what the others were. That's the piece of property that the Catholic church at one time wanted to get. Then they'd have that frontage and I guess they were involved with all these people--and they had leases. Later on when they offered to sell it to the Catholic church, the Catholic church was in no position to buy it. So in the deed it specifies in there, it cannot be sold to the Roman Catholic Church of Hawai'i.

MK: On that Kalākaua frontage that's bordered by 'Ōhūa and Paoakalani you have that string of stores, Aoki Store . . .

EK: Aoki--and there was a barbershop in there and then Unique ice cream parlor and luncheon place [i.e., Unique Lunch Room]. Then there was another laundry place, after you cross that stream bed that was there. Ibaraki's was the corner unit, I know. I don't recall some of the in between. . . . But we went to that barbershop there even when we moved from there. We were up at Sierra Drive--our oldest son when he was born and started grow up, we'd take 'em down there--same place, same barbers practically--get a haircut.

MK: What do you remember about those businesses?



EK: Well, Aoki Store was the main one because you could call from home and just order what you needed and they'd deliver it. And they got a little notebook that they'd carry and they'd make an entry of what the total was and show it to you and give you a slip. And once a month they'd give you a bill and you'd pay it. Well, that wasn't the only place. It was quite a few places that did business. Ibaraki did the same thing. That Unique---well, everybody remembers Unique [Lunch Room] because of the pies and stuff they had there. That was really good. (Chuckles)

There was another restaurant across 'Ōhūa and Kalākaua--had a woman's name to it. She was the owner. Right opposite 'Ōhūa, it was a home, somebody's private home there prior to that and it was two stories. They converted all the lower deck into a restaurant later on and two of my cousins worked there. My sister, Evelyn, worked there for a short while as a waitress.

MK: I know there was a Blue Ocean Inn but that would be . . .

EK: No, that's on the Aoki side. Now this one---it protruded out into the beach area a bit.

MK: Dean's Restaurant [Dean's By-the-Sea]?

EK: Dean's. Yes, yes.

MK: How long was that around? Not many people talk about that particular restaurant.

EK: Well, that was taken over by either the state or the city when they were having a problem with the drainage canal coming down from Kapahulu side and whatnot. It used to come in part of Kapi'olani Park where the parking lot is. It was a regular stream bed that came down through there. Now if you notice there's a concrete gadget [groin] that goes out into the water quite a ways. Well, that was built to take care of this drainage and get it out far enough. Then they found out, as a result of putting that in, it caused the waves to come in that hit where the sand was and the sand was all washing out.

So quite a few years later they had to go out about a hundred yards and build another wall to break that current so it wouldn't take away that [sand]. We all used to have crap games and whatnot in the one by Unique. Underneath there was plugged quite a bit at the time. That sand was all washed out--wasn't much left around there.

MK: You mentioned your crap games. Other people have mentioned older boys going and playing craps around there. How often did the guys go and do that?

EK: Not too often. You'd find if you weren't swimming, surfing or playing volleyball you were sitting on the wall opposite Unique on the opposite side and "Steppy" DeRego would be over there playing

the ukulele, teaching a couple others who wanted to learn. And we were just shooting the breeze over there and then once in a while "Didi" Lau or one of that gang would come by, and you'd find several just down below, shooting crap a bit.

MK: Would you remember the name of the policeman who had the beat in that vicinity in those days?

EK: They didn't walk beats or anything. They rode Chevrolet touring cars, four-door and there were always two policemen to a car. Louis Camacho was one I know. I can't recall some of the others but he's one I remember. They were all painted maroon color.

The odd thing--I had an uncle--Swift, Mike Swift, who was on the police force. He was in the detective division with Kelley and that group. They'd go out and besides their normal detective work, they'd also raid these places for making illegal booze and stuff.

MK: Back in the 1930s before you became a policeman yourself, was there any bit of crime in Waikiki those days?

EK: Nothing that would be unusual, it's a limited amount. You're bound to find some crime but you hardly ever locked your doors. People trusted each other.

There was one murder case and I'm trying to remember. It happened on lower--no, just above Kūhiō Avenue on 'Ōhūa Avenue. Because that woke everybody up when the police came over there. Naturally they were trying to run it down, but they arrested whoever it was. It was near the Kahanamokus' place over there. Yeah, that was Louis Kahanamoku if I'm not mistaken--was the one living there.

Talk about the Kahanamokus, Sam was the guy with the short leg just like "Steppy" DeRego's. Sargent's still alive. In fact Sargent lives as you come in off the highway, the main entrance, coming into Hawai'i Kai. He married a Furtado girl and she died. He's married twice since then, and there's one more brother that's still alive--Kahanamoku.

WN: There's Bill.

EK: Bill. Yeah.

WN: He's over at Lunalilo Home.

EK: Yeah.

WN: Louis is still alive.

EK: Yeah. Yeah, a lot of times too, once they built that swimming pool out there, public baths area, the [Waikiki] Natatorium. A lot of us would go down there because you had diving boards and you could go down and under the concrete slab that was going down in the

water and go into the hollow area underneath through there and just explore it. All you had to do is hold your breath a bit and go down and come up on the other side.

WN: You remember the Natatorium being built?

EK: Oh yes.

WN: Do you know about when that was built?

EK: No, I'd be guessing [1927]. It was the time of Duke Kahanamoku because I remember him being over there and swimming in meets. And there was one other brother very active in it. Louis used to be a good swimmer but Sargent--well, he's just a happy-go-lucky kid.

MK: You just mentioned that Natatorium area, what do you remember about your experiences in say, Kapi'olani Park or the zoo area when you were. . . .

EK: Oh, they had a nice zoo. In fact Monsarrat Avenue went very close to where the elephant was and well, the pigeons are still there. The elephant had sort of a round area just for himself and he had one keeper that took care of 'em. And most of the time during the day--kids go by there--he'd take the elephant out and they had a gadget where the kids could get up and they put 'em on the back of the elephant and he'd walk 'em around the area, take 'em for a ride and bring 'em back. If the kids weren't there he'd just walk the elephant, take 'em around, give 'em his exercise. That was a constant daily habit in through there.

Then it got to the point one time, someone teased the elephant, and threw something at 'em. That's when he went berserk. They had to kill 'em. Daisy--Daisy was the elephant's name. There are much more as far as animals now but it was still a nice zoo. Far back as I can remember, we'd take our kids over there even when we weren't living anywhere close by.

You look back. There were the Rasmussens. Rasmussens were an old-time family on Kapahulu and he used to work at Hawaiian Trust Company. All the games at the Honolulu Stadium--he was one of the ticket collectors, always at the front gate on King Street. He's got one son still alive that I know of. His daughter married Herbert Jardine, my classmate, and she died. And then the Ornelleses. How were the Ornelleses related? Ornelles married one Rasmussen girl because Bill Rasmussen's mother was still alive. She was old, really old.

And then there was another family next door to theirs, Robinsons and they were somehow related to Houghtailings that lived in that area, George Houghtailing, Mark Houghtailing, Frank Houghtailing. I remember those three, yeah. Then there's an attorney Ornelles now.

MK: Axel?

EK: Axel. He inherited his family's property and he put up a condominium building over there. Then he got together with some of the Rasmussen family, I think, and put up another condominium on their property. Those were the main ones in there.

MK: Earlier I think you mentioned a policeman by the name of Kelley. Was there a Kelley family?

EK: There was a Kelley family, yeah. Two boys that I remember--this Kelley family--he wasn't a policeman or anything though. But they were with that same group on Paoakalani playing volleyball and I can't recall their first names. What was the woman that used to put on the luaus down there on . . .

MK: Oh, the Richards family.

EK: The Richards family, yeah. The father was a taxi driver. He was colored fellow opposite Moana Hotel, and Mervin used to always be with us over there. I still see Mervin every once in a while. Seems odd how you can run into these people from so many years back and still see 'em. Like this Hoke family, well, they're spread. One is married to a Fernandez and they live just outside of Kane'ohe, where there's a lot of taro patches and whatnot--what's that area?

WN: Waiāhole?

EK: Waiāhole. Yeah. The poi factory was at the entrance.

MK: That's the same family as Jimmy Hoke?

EK: Same family. Yeah. That's Jimmy's sister and there's one older sister still alive. She's not all mentally there, Ruby. She's still alive and if you come across from Campbell Avenue, across Trousseau Street, I think they call it, lives up there. We've seen her at a couple of funerals recently.

Henry Bodine was another one that was with our group and he had a brother. I don't recall his name, little older brother. And they lived in that Paoakalani area for a short while. Then they moved up to what is now Makini Street, up in that area. That's really taxing your memory.

(Laughter)

EK: But it's interesting because it makes you keep thinking.

MK: I have a map here of some of the families that lived in that area. I think you've mentioned the Bishaws, and the . . .

EK: Bishaw used to lead the choir at St. Augustine Church. He had a beautiful voice.

MK: Was that Joe Bishaw??

EK: Yeah.

MK: And if we go up on to Lemon, you've got the Manu family and the Williams and the Sasaki family and someone said there might have been a Widemann family there.

EK: There was a Widemann family. Sasaki family--one of them became a policeman later on, Richard, because he worked under me. In fact I still run into him every once in a while. Widemann somehow is related to my mother and her family. I've gotta get those family trees and. . . . (Chuckles)

MK: And then I was told that was an Akaka family, Simeon Akaka, and a DeFries family.

EK: Oh, DeFries, Arthur DeFries, younger brother too.

MK: Is Arthur still surviving?

EK: I'm not sure whether he is. Part of his family, when I was in real estate--I ran into 'em way out on Waianae Valley Road, way in--about two miles in at least. I had some party out there--wanted me to go and see whether the land was salable or should be subdivided and whatnot and we helped them subdivide the land. Then we got involved with some of the Meyer family from Pearl City. Their father was working on the plantation prior to that. I bought some land from their family and we subdivided it--acre lots and sold it out.

Then, what's this gal that plays the organ at Star of the Sea Church? Her mother had land out there and they got a hold of me to sell it. That's when I ran into more of the DeFries land--got involved with his sister and his aunt--had quite a bit of land up in that valley.

MK: I know that across from the DeFries family I've heard that there were the Harrises and the Spencers.

EK: Spencers. No Harrises. Right now I don't place the Harrises.

MK: And another Sasaki, and a Matsuzawa, and DeRego.

EK: DeRego, yeah. That's "Steppy" and his family. Funny, DeRegos and the Pachecos lived in the same house. How they were related, I'm not sure but one lived downstairs and the other family lived upstairs.

MK: Who lived upstairs?



EK: Pachecos. Joe, and there was another brother.

MK: And then as you round the corner there was a clothes cleaners family, the Harakawas, and then the Purdys and the Parkers.

EK: Yeah. The Purdys. Gee. I don't know what ever happened to them. I know one moved over in the vicinity of Parker Ranch and the other one somewhere over in the Kona Coast is the last I knew.

MK: How about the Parkers? They stayed there for a long, long time.

EK: Yeah.

MK: Do you know whatever happened to that family?

EK: No.

MK: Then as you go past the Parkers, you've got Kaawakauos, Williamses again, Ewalikos, Asukas and the Jacksons.

EK: Yeah. One of the Ewaliko boys were playing baseball in the school grounds and my brother Robert was at bat. And the bat slipped out of his hand and flew over and hit Ewaliko right smack and broke his nose. So my parents had to take 'em to the doctor--get it taken care of.

MK: This brings us up to the Hamohamo area and again you've got the Williamses, the Richards, Japanese court and the Padekens. And on opposite side, the Kaneloa side, you've got the Kiakahis, the Kaeos, and a number of Japanese families. I've been told that the Kiakahi family had some connection to the queen. Would you know anything about that?

EK: Nope. They were more a family that kept to themselves. They didn't mingle too much with the others around. [But] they were friendly, very friendly, and stuff like that.

MK: Now that we've kind of covered the area, I think at about the time you were living at 'Ōhua, you got involved with the Honolulu Police Department. How did you get involved with the police department?

EK: Well, I was working at Dairymen's and at that time I was in the office, daytime working, but your salary was \$100 a month and police department would pay you \$135. So I went down and inquired and filled out an application and took the exam which was very simple. And went back and told the bosses, Leehman and Fishel at Dairymen's, I was giving notice that I'd be leaving. They wanted to know where I was gonna go and I told 'em I was going to join the police department. They wanted to change my job, raise my pay and I said, "No, I've already made this commitment and I seem to like it, and I'm going to follow through on it." Yeah, we started \$135 a month.

MK: And as a beginning police officer what kind of duties did you have?

EK: Oh, the first thing is you'd go over to Hook Ons and have your uniforms made because without a uniform you were no good to them really--just walking. You gotta walk with a full suit on wherever you're going and walk with somebody else. But you'd go there and there was a clothes cleaner--where he'd come down and you'd just leave your uniform down to your locker and put a little note on it. He ran ABC Clothes Cleaners on Nu'uaniu Avenue between Hotel and Pauahi Street. He's still alive, by the way, because I've run into him several times and he's well along in years. Other than that you'd go out with a beat man walking with him usually on a four to twelve [o'clock] shift. Then they changed it later to three to eleven [o'clock].

Then after you'd been out for, oh, a week or more, they needed men to fill the other. . . . We used to go from Richards Street all the way down to--what's that lane past Liliha? Pua Lane. All the way up to Vineyard Street. Used to be foot beats and I'm not sure how many beats there was but it must have been in the neighborhood of fourteen. And if they wanted to get a hold of you with those red flashing lights at different intersections, you'd call in and give the information. That's where I got started.

MK: And you say there were no walking beats in the Waikiki area, it was mostly town side?

EK: Yeah. All confined in town. And it was, oh, years later that they finally put one walking beat on Kalakaua Avenue, the vicinity of the hotels. From about what used to be the Waikiki Theater--well it's still there, part of it is, it's all split up--down to about 'Ohua, was walking beat. And that walking beat was first only on afternoon shifts, not the other two shifts. Later on they put it on daytime. They never put a walking beat on the midnight shift.

MK: I guess there really wasn't much of a need for a cop to be out there.

EK: No. And our dispatch bureau at that time--we had two people on a shift, like on the third watch was Henry Luning--no, Henry was on the beat with us. What was Luning's name? His brother? They lived at 18th and Harding Avenue, a family home over there.

Anyhow, Jimmy Wong--Jimmy Wong's still alive. He lives at Makaha. He the guy with the deep---he's not regulation police size. He was prior to Gabrielson's and their time. He had the most beautiful voice, deep voice, and he was on what they'd call gamewell board. That's the one you'd pull plugs. When you see the red light you'd plug it in. The beat men were calling in on that and he controlled the radio too.

Fred Luning was the sergeant and he took all the calls coming in and had the complaints put on a slip of paper, gave it to the man on the board and sent somebody out there to investigate it.

MK: I know that you were on the force up until 1953. Could you kind of trace your career for us on the police force?

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

EK: Well, I joined the police department, it was in '34 if I recall, and I recall walking all the beats and then being put on the midnight watch to learn that deal. And usually on the midnight watch, midnight to eight [o'clock] in the morning, you'd take two beats instead of one because there wasn't too much going on.

Your biggest activity back then would be in the vicinity of 'A'ala Park because that's where they were manufacturing, selling swipe--pineapple swipe--and then you had these fifty cents a trick prostitutes, local people that were playing the service people around in that area there.

Other than that there wasn't too much, and I got transferred. [William] Gabrielson transferred me to the traffic division in town and I was either at Fort and King, Bishop and King or Fort and Hotel, one of those intersections. That was a nine-hour shift on those.

WN: Doing what?

EK: Directing traffic.

WN: Oh. Okay.

EK: We didn't have the comfort of the old-time police where they had a gadget on wheels that they'd push out into the middle of the road and they had an umbrella over them (chuckles). And then they put signs on there, "Stop and Go," and the guy would just sit in that umbrella and turn--and we'd actually get out in the middle of the road because you had streetcars coming and whatnot.

It was interesting for a while but I got tired of it and I'd go in and see the chief and ask him if I could be transferred. I said, "I know you're the result of my being put over there and I want to learn some police work, not just how to do traffic."

And he said, "Well, you go back and you keep it up. One of these days I'll transfer you."

So that went on and I was at traffic, oh, at least a couple years and then he called me in one day and said, "I'm gonna give you your wish; I'm gonna take you out of there, and I'm gonna promote you to field sergeant and put you in the Pālama area, everything from Liliha Street out to Fort Shafter; you'll be in charge of the motor patrolmen out there."

And I told him, "Look, I've never been on a patrol beat before.

He said, "You'll learn, you'll find a way to learn, don't worry about it."

So what I'd have to do is I'd go and. . . . You feel odd because here you are in charge of people who've been there, like Joe Kealohanui, Paul Pua, Charley Hosea and what's the other guy? Can't remember his name, but they'd been out there patrolling, handling all the cases. I'd come out as their boss and I don't know the first damn thing about it so I'd ride with one for a couple hours at night. And then I'd go on my own to learn the beat boundaries and what's in it--how to get from one place to the other. And next night or so I'd ride with one of the others. And it worked out very, very well.

Later I got transferred into the desks as a desk lieutenant and I was there when the war [World War II] broke out, or before the war broke out. I was pulled in and sent to the Transient Training Division.

Ray Madison used to be a football coach at Roosevelt High School if I remember and he, sensing the feel of the war and everything, he joined. Ted Nobriga was his assistant and so I was assigned there to find out what classes I'd be instructing policemen.

Besides my desk job also you'd train them in different things. It was odd because I had no real training other than what little I got when I first joined and that was very little. But it was something that you figured you had to learn if you wanted to get ahead. But I had that desk job and I had time to study and research these things--run my classes when they came up.

[When] the war broke out [on December 7, 1941] I was on midnight shift at the desk and I'd gone home. In fact I'd taken my car up to Taga. Taga had a service station on Beretania near Mo'ilili'ili Field, Varsity Motors. Anyhow he was a damn good mechanic, him and Sato, who used to work on Chevrolets and stuff. But most of the policemen took their cars over there and he was gonna work on my car. He gave me a ride home. We were up on Sierra Drive, yeah. I went to sleep and my sister-in-law called my wife and told her, "They're calling all policemen back to work. You better get 'Swede'--which was my nickname--get 'em up, tell 'em he's gotta get back to the job--they're calling for all of 'em."

So she woke me up and I said, "Oh, hell I just got home."



So I listened to the calls. I got my younger brother Harold--he had just completed his schooling in policemen and ready to go out on the beat. He was staying with us--got him up. My brother Robert lived up St. Louis Heights and he was a sergeant in the police department then when the war broke out.

So I got down to the police department and got things straightened out the way that we had been schooled in handling these different things. Because prior to that like Hawaiian Electric, Board of Water Supply and all--we had run classes there on their being taken over and making sure our dispatch knew where they were so that we could make sure we could get food to 'em, get relief to 'em, and check 'em and everything, and got that worked out.

But the greatest thing in all that time was the good old Salvation Army. They'd come in on all three shifts, they had roving crews. "Where are your policemen?--isolated spots. We wanna get at least coffee and doughnuts up to 'em." So we would work out a list and at least got that, and give 'em some of these other installations where other people were and got that worked out.

The lieutenant who was on duty that I relieved that morning--I won't mention his name--but he became a slight mental problem after that--just having this all fall upon him like about 7:30 or quarter to eight in the morning. Was just too much, having to keep account where these people are. That's when we got a call from Emergency Hospital that they couldn't even get the injured people in there. Everything was plugged so I took Sterling Mossman, my younger brother, and Jack King, and one more. We got transportation and got up to the Emergency Hospital which was on Punchbowl and Miller Street, I think, on the corner. Cars were out, people in them and whatnot so we had to push cars up over the curbs onto the grass in Queen's Hospital property and whatnot to clear the way and then get the injured in. And then once we got that all straightened out--had somebody controlling it outside--then we sent 'em into the morgue to start trying to find identifications that we could identify 'em. Sterling Mossman and my brother were in there.

Then Jack King came in and they heard this groan in this pile of people stacked in there, so they came outside and "Somebody's still alive in there." Dr. Mossman, Dr. Katsuki, Dr. Tong, three doctors were all in there.

So I told 'em, "We'll go back in there. We'll find out what it is." We started moving 'em around and we got this fellow. Boy, he was a wreck. He used to be a boxer. Tamanaha was his name. He had a couple arms blown off and frankly, we were sorry we ever found him before he had a chance to die. He would have been better off with all the suffering he must have gone through. And he lived for quite a while. He opened a bar out on Dillingham Boulevard and he had his wife helping him and brother or some relative helping him there. But he lived for quite a while before he died, but he was almost helpless.



But we got that all straightened out there and then got someone checking the injured coming in and getting them taken care of. Then I got a call to go back to the police station and I went back and, "The chief wants to see you."

I got up into his office and he said, "I'm putting you as assistant chief of police in charge of the police department."

I said, "What?"

And he said, "You're in charge of the police department."

I was being called by the--what did they call that guy that was in charge of the military? Lieutenant? No.

WN: Military governor?

EK: Before they finally appointed him--the military governor. Short was the guy, the general. Then they appointed the military governor and that's where he [police chief] was assigned. He had to work from there. He and T.G.S. Walker who had taught me a lot about civil defense work prior to that. And he says, "You're gonna have to work twelve-hour shifts."

I said, "That's all right."

[William] Hoopai was an assistant chief and I--we split it up. Then we found out that we needed more and the chief had contacted us and we told 'em, so he appointed two more. Eddie Hitchcock and Eddie Burns for inside assistant chiefs of police. Hoopai and I were the outside men working in the field. It was rarely---probably once or twice or month you'd see the chief, that's all.

We kept Ted Nobriga and Ray Madison busy hiring more policemen, putting them through a fast training session and getting them (chuckles) into uniforms and out on the road. I kept that job until the war was over--that assignment. Then I was put back in charge on--one of the patrols near Fish'N'Chips, I don't remember--as a lieutenant.

Then I was there for a couple months and I was moved up to the Detective Division. And I was appointed captain of the detectives. That's when we had---the Wilder case [of March 1948] up on Nu'uano, going up where there's old lady [Theresa A.] Wilder. You go up the Old [Pali] Road--it's got hairpin turns and all by the reservoir up in that [area]. She lived with an older woman in there and these two escapees from O'ahu Prison [James Edward] Majors and [John] Palakiko, had got in there and they couldn't control her so they killed her. They just choked her to death and they got away. It was this other woman who found the body and called the police. And we picked it up from there and there was evidence of some of the clothing and whatnot that had blood on it that they'd left. So immediately you connected up--it had to be them. So we

concentrated up in that area, pulled additional men, and I think it was that evening that two of the newer policemen picked them up. They had brought them in and they finally confessed to the murder up there.

[Before] that we had a Sergeant [Henry A.] Chillingworth who [in February 1936] went into a bakery at 12th and Waialae Avenue and he was in there in uniform and this Filipino guy came in there. He was gonna hold up the bakery. When he saw the sergeant and saw him reach for his gun he stabbed him to death right there in the bakery. So that became another problem. And we picked up Domriki in one of the legitimate houses of prostitution that they had in town. They were all controlled by the army, navy and the police department, all of the. . . .

MK: And they were legal ones?

EK: Yeah. Their activities during the day was limited up to a certain hour like 5:00, 5:30. They had to be back inside, checked in and the madames in each place had to keep records of them and whatnot. One of 'em called in, said he was gonna check some of those houses. They picked him up there and he was a mental case and where was he from? Where'd he escape from? Kane'ohe?

MK: You mentioned those houses of prostitution, how many were there?

EK: Oh, let's see, Kuakini, River Street, Hotel Street had two, Smith Street had two, Maunakea Street had at least two. There was at least ten, twelve easily, maybe a little bit more. There was a regular police detail that would be accompanied with a man from the navy and one from the army, military police, that would make regular checks on all these houses. And the going rate then was about \$2.50 to \$3.00.

WN: What was there to check? Were there certain standards that each house had to . . .

EK: Yeah. Actually. First of all you'd make sure all the women that belonged to that house were in and they'd have a regular sign-in book that they'd have to sign in and we'd check. And they had other regulations. I know the chief himself used to go through there.

Then we ran into problems when they started to ration liquor. There were long lines. I think we used our liquor thing first time up in Hilo--your [EK's wife] brother's place. We went out and bought---he was out at Keokaha and we went in and bought Primo beer. They had no cold beers so we took it home, got ice cubes and we drank it. You know how it fuzzes up all over.

In town here the people were getting confused--the liquor lines and the lines for these houses of prostitution were almost as long and a lot of 'em wanting to buy liquor would find themselves in the

other line. (Chuckles) They wouldn't find out until they started going up the steps. Then they'd realize they were in the wrong spot. That went on for quite a while.

WN: Were there problems with illegal houses of prostitution?

EK: There were some, not too many. You had the cheap, like around the 'A'ala Park district and then out in lower Kalihi, out in that area, there were some. Now whether they were former people that were in that business that would rent a house and set up their own business in through there. . . .

[EK speaks to wife] I can tell them a story about Andy Freitas and (a new policeman).

ELK: [EK's wife.] It's your story.

(Laughter)

EK: I shouldn't have mentioned his name, but--had this one policeman--got 'em all trained. They wanted to knock this place over. You go there and you make your liquor buy and then afterwards they'll approach you if you want a girl and whatnot--what the fee is. And Andy Freitas was the captain in charge there and he said, "All right, you go all the way through with it, go into the bedroom, take off all your clothes, get on the bed, and just as you're about to have your actual sexual intercourse, you grab your police whistle and blow it, and we'll come busting in." Well, he couldn't blow the police whistle.

(Laughter)

EK: Oh, it's the same thing. We used to go around and we'd have to [buy] pineapple swipe--it was fifty cents a gallon you'd buy it and I had a guy for a while--Gunder Olson, ex-serviceman--that was assigned with me. We would go in old clothes, go around, make the buys. And you'd get up there--they were so happy that you're gonna buy a gallon. They give you a free drink and they'd take the cover--cloth--off, and it was all dead cockroaches floating around on top of the stuff and they'd push all the cockroaches to the side and get this container, and scoop it up, and fill your gallon--give you a drink. You'd get sick as hell sometimes, but that was it.

And once we went up into--the two of us--went up into the speakeasy and we got up there and David Trask and Jimmy Gilliland, two attorneys, were up there in this place and they recognized me right away and said, "Hey, you a policeman, what you doing up here?" So we weren't there very long.

(Laughter)

EK: But other than that things went along fine.

MK: During the war years were there houses of prostitution in Waikīkī?

EK: No, we'd lose policemen in Waikīkī. You see, we went into a complete blackout--military authorities--except for one-eighth-inch slit, about inch-and-a-half, two inches, on your headlights that would be below the fender. It would be nothing more than warning somebody coming towards you. They could see a small little light, but it wouldn't help you. You'd look for a painted line on the road and use that for a guide and that's the way you got around. I remember coming in from Makaha . . .

ELK: You were talking about losing policemen in Waikīkī.

EK: Oh, losing policemen in Waikīkī, yeah. Houses, you know you had to build these frames over part of the windows so you could open part of them--the ventilation. Policemen--they'd see a light on and they'd go up there and knock and you had a lot of these young gals in there. They'd invite the policemen in and before long they were offering them a drink and after that you don't know what was going on inside there and there was no way that we could contact these policemen. Those blinking red lights--we couldn't use those for a long time. So it was just send the sergeant--let 'em go around and try to see if he could find 'em, but most of the time you didn't find too many.

(Laughter)

MK: So that's how you'd lose your policemen in Waikīkī?

EK: Yeah. You had a lot of young women out there--no dates.

ELK: Your most elite house was at 'Ālewa Heights, huh?

EK: Yeah.

MK: During the war years the military in Waikīkī and the locals in Waikīkī--how were relations among locals and military?

EK: Well, right when the war first started out we had problems because the military people were trigger happy. They'd shoot first--shoot at you and then holler, "Halt!" You can't blame 'em. A lot of 'em were just brand new soldiers in there and we had one motor patrolman, Joe Lum, that got bullets--bullets were hitting his radiator, his engine hood and making dents in that thing. He got out of there fast. But after a while--it wasn't too long, probably a week, ten days, things started getting more organized and it went along fine after that.

But we had all six kids when I was a policeman.

ELK: Of course. You didn't leave the force until [19]50. . . .

MK: Fifty-three?

EK: Fifty-three, yeah.

ELK: Peggy was about three or four years old.

WN: I know this was a time of martial law. Did the functions of the police department diminish during the war at all?

EK: No, in fact we got more responsibility after that. They--what was the title of that guy that was running the thing?--the general, military governor or whatever they called him. Anyhow they realized the police were better trained as far as handling civilians and handling things outside of the bases. But we'd either have a shore patrolman or a military policeman walking with our people or riding with them. We combined them so it worked out quite well.

ELK: That's why we got to be such good friends with even the coast guard. We got to be friends with a lot of them because of that.

WN: Did the police have any less authority over the public?

EK: No. Our authority didn't change. In fact if it was a serviceman involved the policeman would make the arrest and then either the shore patrolman or the military policeman would then make himself known and he'd take over and call for somebody. It worked out very well.

ELK: There was a lot of rapport really during the war, more so than before or after the war was over because you were working for a common cause. You got along better then, I think, than they do today.

EK: Yeah. The first week or ten days I think at the state capitol --that was hell over there. Some people just were assuming too much authority in the military end of it and fighting among themselves and whatnot, but that got straightened out quite fast and worked out.

After that there were--like T.G.S. Walker was a person in between the military governor and the civilians and then they had somebody else later also working with him. Then they took over Ka'ahumanu School and that became civil defense headquarters.

MK And what was the reason for you to resign . . .

EK: Well, first of all, the point is we had six kids.

ELK: Money.

(Laughter)

EK: Money. And the salary and whatnot was just something . . .



ELK: In a nutshell, money.

EK: If we intended to give them any type of--in fact she was going back to work.

ELK: I did.

EK: You worked for Dr. Trexler and after. . . .

ELK: After you opened your real estate office then I went to work in that.

EK: Yeah.

MK: So after the police department you got into real estate and development and all that and I know that you lived at Sierra Drive and some other places, right? You lived at Paoakalani at one point.

EK: Oh, yeah.

ELK: Yeah. That was when we were married.

EK: Yeah. When we were first married. That's 259 Paoakalani.

ELK: High-rise now.

MK: Where exactly is that 259 Paoakalani?

ELK: Right across the Lili'uokalani Gardens. Directly across the street. Right on the corner. You can't miss it.

EK: You got [the block of] Wainani and Pualani and Paoakalani and the Ala Wai, is where that hotel is. All right, ours was right at the corner of Paoakalani and Wainani . . .

ELK: Paoakalani and Pualani.

EK: Yeah, Pualani.

MK: So, in essence when you were in Waikīkī you were down by Kalākaua Avenue side originally, then you moved out to the [Lewers Road area, then the] Kālia area eventually, then you got into the 'Ōhūa Street area, and then the Paoakalani site for a while. And you've lived in other places. But what are your feelings towards Waikīkī as a place to live in?

EK: Well, Waikīkī's a big area, first of all. Secondly, I don't think I would enjoy living there anymore because having lived there when things were much wider open as far as the development where people were living and all, there were no high-rise hotels and everything. Moana Hotel and then later the Royal Hawaiian--neither one of those were tall buildings.

ELK: We thought they were, though. (Chuckles)

EK: Yeah, at that time. We thought they were fairly tall.

ELK: We thought they were mammoth. (Chuckles)

EK: And that Steiner family--they owned their land. One of the brothers was a judge, district court judge, Harry Steiner.

ELK: There was a Thurston family that lived right on Kalākaua Avenue--Lucy [Thurston] Blaisdell. They lived there for years.

EK: You tell people there used to be a pretty good-sized bowling alley in Waikīkī next to the Moana Hotel, [Waikiki Bowling Lanes] they think you're crazy, but there was.

WN: What's different about Waikīkī other than the tall buildings? What's different about it now as compared to when you were living there?

EK: Well, it's not what you call a residential area anymore. It's strictly commercial all the way through.

ELK: Oh, it's very transient. That's the thing that makes it hard to take--when you knew what it was like. You could walk down the street and know practically everybody down the street by name and you could say hello to everybody you passed. Today I could go through Waikīkī and not know a soul.

EK: Those buildings, rentals--houses without keys--never locked them, never bothered, no problem . . .

ELK: No one ever went in.

EK: Trying to remember a woman's name that owned a pretty big piece of property right by Gray's Beach. That would be opposite Malcolm Love's family's home.

MK: Fullard-Leo?

EK: Fullard-Leo, yeah.

ELK: Gee, they're gonna know more about Waikīkī than we do.

(Laughter)

MK: Not the way you know it.

EK: But you know, your coming here and making these inquiries brought back so many good memories, all good memories. I was running into David Young the other day at Longs Drugstore in Kāhala. That was odd because I started going down this aisle and I look at this little guy looking up at me all silvery white hair and I thought I

knew the guy. And then I started to walk away and I said, "Hell, that's David Young." I said, "You David Young?"

He said, "Yeah, you're Kennedy, yeah?"

(Laughter)

MK: I guess thinking about Waikīkī brings back the memories.

EK: It does. And we even go back to where we used to go and get the broken polo mallets over at the polo grounds over there--take it home, fix it up, no more horses. You'd get the old ball and during the week we'd go over there and run, get your exercise. You really got it. You remember when the Natatorium was built?

WN: We can look that up. [The Waikīkī Natatorium was built in 1927.]

END OF INTERVIEW

# **WAIKĪKĪ, 1900 - 1985: ORAL HISTORIES**

## **Volume I**

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